

1Interviewee: Althea McCleery

2Location: Home of Rhea Palma, Wailua Homesteads, Kaua'i

3Date: Sept. 15, 2010, 10:00 am – 12:05 pm

4Team: Carol Bain, Rhea Palma, Andy Bushnell

5Oral History Project 2010: Island Movers & Shakers of the 20th Century

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70:00:21.3

8Interviewer: Aloha, Althea, and thank you for joining us for the Movers and Shakers Oral

9History project, today September 15, 2010.

10I was wondering if you could please give a little basic background about yourself-- your
11full name, when and where were you born and if you weren't born on Kauai, how did
12you get here?

13Althea: My name is Althea McCleery. I was born in Michigan and I got to Kauai because
14I had grown up in the Hawaiian Islands. And I kept saving so that we could make trips to
15the islands. So my husband promised that we could spend his sabbatical year in the
16Hawaiian Islands. Not on Oahu. Not on Maui. Not on the Big Island or Molokai. Certainly
17not Lanai. Which left Kauai. And I had a good friend that I had gone to the University of
18Hawaii with who came to visit us after Christmas and I told her my sad story and she
19said, "I'll write my brother!" and subsequently we rented a beach cottage on Aliomanu
20Road on Kauai for one year. At the end of the year, my husband promised we would be
21back in a year and exactly one year and one later, we were back on Kauai and this is
22where we've been ever since. That was August 1967. And this is now September 2010.

23Interviewer: Where did your involvement with the League of Women Voters begin? I
24know that it is a national organization that has been around since the 1920's. When did
25you become involved and where?

26Althea: My first exposure to the League of Women Voters was in Honolulu when my
27husband was out here for one year--'54, '55--doing research for his dissertation. And I
28was invited to a League meeting and subsequently after that to an excursion to Oahu
29jail and was very impressed with the women and their involvement in the local venue.
30Then after my husband received his PhD, and a couple years at Michigan State, and
31then at Antioch College I had a neighbor that invited me to the League. I joined the
32League and was a member in Yellow Springs for 7 years. And as I said before, our

33sabbatical was spent out here, back to Yellow Springs for one year, and then here to
34Kauai. No League on Kauai. And unfortunately, or fortunately, however you want to look
35at it, my husband's favorite professor from University of Hawaii days had started the
36League in Honolulu and his wife was a mover shaker in the League. And as soon as
37they found out that they were now residents of Kauai, I got a letter from Marian
38Saunders and saying why don't I do something about organizing a league on Kauai. And
39the first thing of course is to invite people to an informational meeting about the League
40and I met Winona Sears, who was also a former League member, and the combination
41made it possible to get information to the community, have meetings, and eventually
42become first a provisional League and then a chapter of the National.

430:05:32.0

44Interviewer: I wanted to know if you could remember in those early days when you were
45trying to get the chapter together. What was involved? What were the hoops you had to
46go through?

47Althea: That's asking an awful lot!

48(Interviewee asks to relate the following paragraph personal background off the
49recording:

50Mickey came out here with college students thinking this would be, ummm. Antioch
51College had a work-study program and he was involved with getting students from
52several colleges to come here with the brand new Kauai Community College. Only it
53was a shock for our students coming from the mainland. Mickey and I, we had been
54here for years and years, and he was out here as a young 17-18 year old in the regular
55Army. And he was here for the beginning of World War II. And I grew up here, and was
56here for the beginning of World War II, too. So to us, they spoke English, didn't they?
57But there were just so many things that were different that these young people, mostly
58from the East Coast, just couldn't adjust.)

59Interviewer: How does that relate to the start of the Kauai League of Women Voters?

60Althea: It means that I personally had too much on my plate to devote to anything

61outside of my responsibilities to my family and support these young people who were
62here in a strange place and uncomfortable. I didn't have time to go off and make new
63friends and acquaintances. Fortunately, Winona was one of these outgoing people and
64she got some involved, I had some involvement too, but I think basically she's the one
65who got Jenny Yukimura. And as you both know, Jenny Yukimura is a mover and shaker
66in so many different organizations that once she understood the League and League
67purposes, she was a marvelous to make contact with the people she worked with, the
68people in her church, people in all of the different organizations she was a part of.

69Interviewer: What was the extent of your participation in those early days? Obviously,
70you were busy with the students and your family obligations. You had to start out as a
71provisional and then a chapter? What was the qualification . . .

720:08:44.0

73Althea: Well, the League has a lot of steps that it requires of a group of women, at that
74point, to make sure that there can be a League and the League will survive. And they
75required a certain number of members, a certain amount of financial base, and a bunch
76of requirements, all of which I cannot remember at this point, but hustling and getting
77coverage in the newspaper and talking story with people, I depended on Winona and
78Jenny, and I did a lot of, a fantastic amount of the stuff that I look back and that I look
79back and said how in the world did you get that done! Writing stuff to the newspapers
80writing stuff over to Honolulu, because Honolulu is looking at us and saying "C'mon,
81c'mon, we want you as a League and we'll do everything we can to help you. so they
82sent people over and we had meetings and all kinds of things. The things I'm proudest
83of is the fact that as a provisional League we looked at the situation on Kauai and that is
84when the charter was first adopted and the League of Women Voters put out the first
85Voter's Guide when Kauai was to elect their first mayor and council in 1970. So, I think
86the value of that outranks anything else that the League contributed. Unfortunately, the
87League sort of died on the vine and the last Voter's Guide that I'm aware of was put out
88in 2004. In 2006, there was a Voter's Guide but it was not the same.

89Interviewer: Do you remember what year that was?

90Althea: 1970

91Interviewer: And that appeared in the Garden Island?

92Althea: That's right.

93Interviewer: Had there been anything like that before? Available to . . .

94Althea: Nope! There was nothing to the best of my knowledge. There were big rallies.

95Huge, because I can remember Kapaa Ball Park with these hundreds of people, and

96people in cars, tooting their horns, and all kind of excitement. Because up here in the

97islands, election years are very special. I can remember in Kaneohe, you could always

98tell a politician because he had pheasant lei on his hat! And that meant he was a

99politician.

100Interviewer: So you felt that the League of Women Voters is a non-partisan group but

101very political active. In that it . . . well, maybe you can tell me what the mission

102statement, review what the mission statement of the League . . .

103Althea: No way! It's changed. It was some thing back when we started the League in '67

104and they have changed the mission statement and I have no idea what it is and I don't

105care. All I know is that as a non-partisan organization, Kauai has lost a lot with the

106demise of the League Women Voters of Kauai.

107Interviewer: So back then, I know that the League takes on certain issues to advocate. It

108looks at public policy, it decides, decided to pick a few issues to advocate . . . one of

109them is public awareness or public education on voter participation?

110Althea: It's called voter service. And it's not a study. It is what the League does. The

111studies that the new Kauai League pursued, the first one was the study of the County

112charter, because it was brand new and so we put out a version for our members, and

113then decided to do a publication. So a Know Your County publication was produced and

114presented to the mayor in 1979, I believe it was. We started that right away in 1970.

115Interviewer: Who was the mayor at the time?

116Althea: Believe me, you can look it up! I ... I saw it, I think it's Ching, but I could be
117mistaken.

118Interviewer: How well was that received? Did you get any feedback since that was a
119first.

120Althea: No, I don't remember, sorry.

121Interviewer: Was that a publication that was released, update and released in the years
122following?

123Althea: No, not to the best of my knowledge. And least, I can't find any record of it. I
124have the original one that was put out just for the membership. And the one that was
125published. And there have been many, many changes since then. The County charter
126has been revised, there are all kinds of differences from the 1979 version to 2010. And
127nobody else, to the best of my knowledge, has followed up and done a Know Your
128County.

129Interviewer: Can you tell us about the membership in those early days? Were there any
130men?

1310:16:08.9

132Althea: There were no men in the League of Women Voters until 1970-something or
133other.

134Interviewer: This is the Kauai League or . . .

135

136Althea: ANY League. It was a league of women's voters and that started back in 1920
137and up to 1970 or 1972, if I remember correctly, when men could become not just
138associate members, but members with the League of Women Voters. We never
139changed the name because there's history in that name. If you're looking for our
140outstanding contributions, to the County of Kauai, it has to be Voter's Service. The
141Voter's Guide, yes, but also they members went through training to be deputy registrars,

142and registered voters in the shopping centers and public meetings, any place that they
143were, they had the forms and they said, Are you registered to vote on Kauai? And when
14418-year olds were allowed to vote, the League went to the high schools and registered
145voters. So, I think, our major contribution to Kauai-- Voter's Guide and Voter's Service.

146Interviewer: I remember going out to those campuses . . .

147Althea: Oh and Kauai Community College, too.

148Interviewer: So, Voter's Service and not just the publication that came out on voter
149years . . .

150Althea: The registration of voters AND we were the first to do public forums, to do the
151candidate nights in which we invited all the candidates for that particular office. The
152council, mayor, and we did live television, the first television debate between JoAnn
153Yukimura and Tony Kunimura. That's a plus on the League's side. And then we did
154things like verify signatures and absentee ballots. Election ABC we had people reporting
155back to the mainland from the County office.

156Interviewer: Now, you say that you took a back seat during the founding of the
157organization, but I know . . .

158Althea: I did the nitty-gritty!

159Interviewer: You did the nitty-gritty, ok.

160The things that had to be done.

161Interviewer: I know that you've worn many hats over the years; can you recall some of
162them?

163Althea: I've done everything, yeah. I found out I'd been treasurer, too, because I was
164about to say the only thing I haven't done is treasurer, but I remember, I looked at one of
165the things I said, oops! I was treasurer one year, wasn't I! I've done secretary's job, vice-
166president, president, been on the board, been on the nominating committee, I've done
167everything over the years from 1967 to our demise in 2008.

168Interviewer: Were there any issues during your time involved with the League were
169close to your heart or most important to you. I know that you were involved with the
170parks, beaches . . .

171Althea: I've already said that Know Your County was our first study. And our second one
172was transportation. And transportation is still dear to my heart. Every time that I see
173something in the newspaper in which they have increased the service, the park and
174ride, all the things that the League has said the things that were necessary on this
175island, given the distance it is from homes to work places, to hospitals, to doctors, that
176kind of thing, and Kauai continues to increase its service.

177Interviewer: So how to you feel about the Kauai Bus?

178Althea: I just wish that it were closer to my house! Because I would be very happy to
179take the Kauai Bus. But I'm no longer able to walk up hills to the bus stop. I see the bus
180going by but that is for pick-up by the elderly and they're a separate transportation for
181the elderly. And when I'm no longer able to drive, that's the way I'm going to get around
182too. I'm already signed up but it's just that I don't need that service at this point.

183Interviewer: Are there any events or people that stand out in your member and why?

184Althea: Well, I've always said Winona Sears and Jenny Yukimura. Margaret Littmann,
185Alice Larkin, golly, Marie Fifield . . . Rhea Palma! Carol Bain! (Laughs)

1860:22:21.3

187Interviewer: How about events, any first time events, particularly, I know you say you
188remember the first candidates night, first public forum. But there were others . . .

189Althea: Oh, I didn't mention the fact that we had legislators in the forum reporting to
190Kauai during the legislative session so that there could be input from different
191organizations and private citizens. And to the best of my knowledge, that has not
192happened since. Well, there is supposedly communication now over from Kauai to
193Honolulu, which wasn't possible back in those days.

194Interviewer: How about public forums on issues, controversial issues?

195Althea: Oh, yes! We done that! I don't think any other organization has. And they were
196issues, c'mon, c'mon . . .

197Interviewer: One was the marriage, same-sex marriage . . .

198Althea: Yes, that one . . . oh! Of course! What's Las Vegas famous for? Gambling. We
199had a rip-roaring one for gambling because there were many different views and as we
200know Las Vegas is a favorite spot for many of the island residents. There was a wine
201and cheese and art auction that brought in a nice amount of money for us, and good
202exposure, too. That took a lot of organization and publicity. But it netted League monies
203that League spent in subsequent years.

204Interviewer: The Kauai League also has an education fund, can you tell me about that?

205Althea: Our education fund was through Honolulu, through the State League, best of my
206knowledge and we had scholarships for Kauai Community College students. That was
207something, the first one was in honor of Dr. David Sears and later there was one for
208Winona Sears. And did we ever do one for Margaret Littmann? We were going to, I think
209we did, yes, I think we did.

210Interviewer: I see you're looking at your notes, is there anything you want to tell me?

2110:26:26:0

212Althea: Well, I'm just wondering if I bragged about the fact that we not only we that
213mayoral live TV, the first one on Kauai, but we also did later on and later years, TV
214individual candidates and then put them on Hoike. And we also did interviews on radio,
215Susan did that. So, we'd done a lot on Voter's Service. I mean . . . our other positions
216that we studied and came to a consensus on--General Plan amendment process;
217citizen participation in the planning process; special elections; initiative and referendum;
218adequate, fair and flexible funding of local government through equitable tax system
219that is progressive. So those are all things we studied and came to agreement. We
220studied and got no agreement on election by districts. We could never agree on how
221Kauai would be divided up. And whether this would be one from each of these and then
222one that would be from the whole island. We could never agree on any of it so that one

223we put out a publication and it's available, but we didn't come to a consensus on that.

224Interviewer: So what positions that did work, what positions that didn't succeed?

225Althea: Well, the main one, transportation. What was the last one we did? [Question to
226Carol Bain]

227Interviewer: Well, we did a study on County Parks that was just like a study, remember?
228I'd have to look.

229Althea: Well, that's my problem, too. The ones that I was really involved with the parks,
230of course, and transportation.

231Interviewer: Do you see any that are unfinished that you would have liked to have seen.

232Althea: Not just right off-hand. Well, ok, ok. County Manager. That is something we did a
233little bit, I can't remember when we did it, but uh, started to do some background on
234County managers and how efficient that was and whether that made a great deal of
235difference or made no difference and as you read on Kauai many thinkers are saying,
236let's give it a shot, let's see what County manager could do on this island because at
237this point, looking at the mayor, the mayor is a greeter, is publicity. What he actually
238does is something in question. Yeah, he's at every party, he's at very bon dance, he
239makes himself visible in every possible situation, private parties, public affairs, meetings
240(inaudible), he's visible. So is that the job of the mayor? Anyway, this is something that
241the League never did study and if there were a League now, that's what I would like
242them to do and do a publication on it and do some real research and publicity on it.

243Interviewer: You say that the local League has met its demise. Why do you think? Or I
244should say, what are the issues that you think, obviously membership has declined, and
245do you see that because . . . in your opinion.

2460:31:50.6

247Althea: You have to have leadership. And when people who are potential leaders leave
248to hold full-time jobs, also take care of their families, we have retired people who are so
249involved in all the community organizations, that they have no spare time, the League

250has to have training for its members. And if they don't understand what the League
251stands for, its purposes, and the possibilities in this community, it's going to fold. And
252we had some members got training and they're going off in many different directions
253and all kinds of interests, and they're not League members. I'm sorry but the League is
254a disciplined kind of involvement and without the discipline, fly off in many different
255directions.

256Interviewer: You think it still has a place on the island today?

257Althea: Yes, I do, because it is non-partisan. And there's too much partisan politics at
258this point. And I would like to see a group that can stand off and conduct forums, and
259conduct voter service in a non-partisan way, without getting involved with personalities.
260At one point, there was--I think Cira did it--looked at the voting records of the council.

261Interviewer: This was Cira de Castillo?

262Althea: Yes, yes. That was interesting! But that kind of thing, a follow-up would be
263terrific. So that you knew at the end of the council year what the council members that
264were asking were re-election, how they stood on the different voting issues. Interesting,
265informative. Allows you to make a decision, especially if you're involved in any particular
266one of these issues that came up for vote. Yes, I think there's still a place for the
267League. But I'm not going to be the one that starts it all over again because I know how
268much work it was, I know how full-time job it was in the beginning.

269Interviewer: Do you have any ideas how it might work ... to get it revived?

270Althea: You have to have the spark plug. Once you have the spark plug, people will
271come to that because they'll get involved, they'll get energized. There's lots of new jobs
272that don't take that much time, and lots of the job that take a lot of time. And you have to
273be honest about what's involved in each of so-called elective offices in the League
274because it's not fair to ask someone to serve and then they get dumped. And obviously
275they've got a choice-- they either do it or get out.

276Interviewer: What have you personally enjoyed about your involvement with the
277League? What has it done for you personally?

278Althea: Well, for me it's a lot of people I would not have gotten to know if it hadn't been
279for the League. I mean, all walks of life, all ages, and

280Interviewer: And not just on this island . . .

281Althea: Not just on this island, but mostly on this island because I don't go to Honolulu. I
282still have some friends in Honolulu, but we email each other, haven't seen them for a
283long time. Maui, as far as I know, still has a provisional League, but it hasn't gotten to
284the next step. It's a nasty climb from provisional to a local League. It takes a lot of team
285effort one person can't do by themselves. The Big Island is still struggling along. Of
286course, they have Hilo on one side of the island and there's huge amount of space to
287Kailua, to the west side of the Big Island. So they call it Hawaii League, but its really two
288separate . . .

289Interviewer: Is there anything more you want to share with us?

290Althea: Hm. Except how would I have known Carol Bain, how would I have known Rhea
291Palma, if it hadn't been for the League. There are a lot of names that I go through the
292list and say, yes. Of course there's a bunch of names on the list that got talked into
293joining the League because they were my friends and I needed people more people to
294be on the membership list. You don't have to do anything, just join the League! (laughs).

295Interviewer: You talk about impact . . . the state of Hawaii has had compared to other
296states excellent numbers, comparatively very good numbers of voter turnout and voter
297registration. Do you think the League on Kauai and in the state we're in, but on Kauai,
298had an impact?

299Althea: Yes, I'm sure so. Yes, I'm very proud of that fact that voter registration and
300involvement was something that the League advocated and by example, we had
301League members that ran for office. And JoAnne Yukimura, of course, is a prime
302example. And I was trying to find her name the first time it appears on our membership
303list. I remember being at a State of Hawaii League retreat out in Kahuku? Off on that
304side of the island many long years ago in a cabin with bunk beds. And JoAnn and I were
305in the same cabin, and that was a long time ago when it was miss JoAnn.

306Interviewer: The statistics as far as voter registration, do you see any correlation with
307the League very active and what was the highest voter registration on this island?

308Althea: I have no idea. I used to have kept all that stuff.

309Interviewer: Well, we are currently around 64, but I would think that we were in the high
31070 percentage at one point when the League was very, very active. But I'll have to go
311and look.

312Althea: A little research.

313Interviewer: That's what I was saying, a correlation between the impact that the League
314had with its activity and impact in voter registration. Guess the voters were more
315educated, that's what I was looking for is a correlation between the impact the League
316activity and voter registration rising.

317Althea: Well, you'd have to look in 1969, and then from 1970 to 2006 to see. I don't
318even know. I never kept any of that.

3190:41:29.4

320Interviewer: You didn't spend enough time on your early years and why is it you have
321given yourself to public service, for years and years and years of donating your time, not
322only to the League of Women Voters, but also to the seniors. Maybe we could talk a
323little bit about your early years and what was it that made you decide to donate some
324time?

325Althea: All right. My parents were missionaries. And they met and married after college.
326Both wanted to be missionaries. My dad's first assignment was a church in Michigan, I
327was born in Michigan, and then they accepted an assignment from the American Board
328of Missions to the Marshall Islands. And the American Board of Missions required that
329missionaries learn the language of the ruling country of where they were going to be
330assigned so my parents spent a year in Japan and my sister was born there. Then we
331went down to the Marshall Islands and were there for four years. That was '28, '29, '30,
332'31 & in '32 monies for missions was low because that was depression years. And my

333dad and our family went to Oberlin, Ohio where he went to Oberlin Seminary for two
334years. And then looking at all the different possibilities, I can remember them talking
335about different areas and they chose Hawaii. So my dad, we came out to Honolulu. My
336brother was born in Honolulu and I had my ninth birthday in Honolulu. Then we went
337over to Kailua-Kona and my dad was pastor at Kailua-Kona and Holualoa. Holualoa was
338a Japanese church and Kailua-Kona was a Hawaiian church. So he had in the time we
339were in Honolulu, he had gotten some instruction in how to read Hawaiian, so he could
340read the scriptures in Hawaiian. Couldn't speak or give the sermon in Hawaiian. That
341was not expected of him. But he was suppose to be able to read the Scripture in
342Hawaiian. And then there was a little bit of conflict, and we went over to Kaneohe in
3431936. And my parents were in the same house in Kaneohe from June of 1936 to April of
3441966, when they sold the house and moved to an apartment in Honolulu, right across
345from Central Union Church. And ideal location for a Congregational minister and his
346wife.

347Althea: Where was I all this time? With my family, right? My brother died in February
3481941. '41 was a very traumatic year for our family. My brother's passing, and then of
349course, the beginning of World War II while we were in Kaneohe. And planes buzzing--
350but it sounded just like the times naval air was buzzing around anyway--they had all
351kinds of activities over there. And there was a phone call and my parents went over to
352the first aid station over in Kaneohe. My sister and I went over to baby sit a 6-year old
353and a 4-year old while their mother, who was the only trained nurse on our side of the
354island, went up to the pupule house (mental institution) which is the only area that had
355any facilities for all these wounded that were being brought over from Kaneohe Marine
356air station. The husband was off golfing for the first time in years. When he came back,
357of course, he was involved. So my sister and I were there for a week before things sort
358of settled down.

3590:46:37.7

360My sister and I went to ?? Parker? School in Kaneohe, we were the only two haoles
361there, until our family moved into Coconut Island to, and they had two boys who were
362also at ???? School.

363In 9th grade I went to Robert Louis Stevenson, which was the first graduating class of
364that school and the students had started there at 7th and 8th grade, and then this was
365their last year, 9th grade. So they all had been together since first grade, so I was a
366stranger in that situation. From Robert Louis Stevenson, in 1939, we went up to
367Roosevelt High School and graduated in 1943. And those were war years, of course. So
368gas masks and air raids sirens blowing and all kinds of exciting things. And more men,
369more men, more men. And I learned how to jitterbug! My mom came along to
370chaperone, which was lovely. Here was this lovely little old lady and of course all the
371servicemen all flocked around because was somebody that was just like their moms,
372grand moms, aunties. So she was very popular! And in the war years, my parents
373wanted me to go back to the mainland and I didn't want to go. I look up at the Koolau
374Mountains. No, I'm staying here. And when they came home from Honolulu, I'm sorry,
375but I'm sticking it out here. This is home.

376I did go back to the mainland to college. One year at the University of Hawaii. Oh! One
377year at Pearl Harbor, working after I graduated from high school. And one year, my
378freshman year at University of Hawaii. Then went back to the heart of Missouri,
379Columbia, Missouri to Stevens College because my parents said you've learned to
380know a lot of men but not women, so you're going to go to a women's college. OK.
381(laugh). It's weird because I was the oldest one there.

382All these young, little . . . so that was one year, fortunately. I was at that point in a two
383year's school, so I got outta there. And my parents didn't have money to bring me home
384to the islands, so I went and visited relatives and people that I had gotten to know at
385Stevens College and that was the summer. And I ended up going to the University of
386Iowa. Late registration, so there wasn't any room in the dormitories and I ended up
387sleeping in the upstairs hall of the Baptist Student Union (laughter). And I still have two
388good friends from those days. In the summer between my junior and senior year, my
389sister was also going to that college, she went to Stevens for two years. So my parents
390couldn't stand it and they brought us both home to summer between her two years at
391Stevens and my two years at the University of Iowa. That was great, wonderful. And I
392tried to get into the University of Hawaii but realized I would lose so many credits and

393would have to start all over from the beginning, so I went back for my senior year at
394University of Iowa, and I graduated with a degree in sociology. But I'd already decided
395no way I was going to be a social worker because the clients were problems all set in
396stone, there's no way that you can get them from this point on to a normal life. Just can't
397happen. So I transferred, I came back to the University of Hawaii as pre-school primary
398education because that's when they first go into a social situation. This is where I
399wanted to be. So first year, I had junior, senior and graduated courses all at the same
400time. My second year . . . oh, end of my first year? Yeah, end of my first year.

4010:52:39.9

402Easter. Palm Sunday, actually. I met my future husband on the steps of the Methodist
403Church in Honolulu parish hall. And my sister introduced us. He asked us for a date. So,
404Easter Sunday I went out with Mickey McCleery and he took me to dinner at Halekulani
405and then taxi out to Kaimuki and then to his friend's restaurant, and we talked story. And
406I said I didn't want a big house and all that, and he said, "Your prince has come!"
407(laugh) And he took me back home and subsequently, that was April, right? We got
408married December 26, 1949. It would have been 60 years, this December.

409So, what he did was take me back to the mainland to New York State, to the Snow Belt.
410And he went to Syracuse and I taught school in Favius, New York, in the basement of a
411church. The first grade teacher took all the students would be able to pass the first
412grade, and she gave me the rest. So, I had 4-year olds and 8-year olds in this
413supposedly first grade, with no materials, nothing. And that basement was HOT, oh, it
414was wonderfully hot! And then by the time the school day was over, it was ice-cold. And
415here I was shoveling these kids into their boots, always much too small for them, and
416snow clothes, caps, mittens, the works. And the end of the year, we put everything we
417owned into a Buick coupe and drove south! Blew four tires in the process, and ended up
418in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. In Chapel Hill, North Carolina, we stayed and that's
419where Mickey got his PhD and that's where our son, Bob McCleery, was born. In that
420time, '54-'55, we spent the year in Honolulu, while my husband worked, did research for
421his dissertation at Oahu prison. And that's the time when I got to know about the
422League. It was a very good year. And then we went back to Chapel Hill, North Carolina

423for that one year, and I was the one that did some of the research for him in terms of
424getting notations from different books in library and that kind of thing. At the end of the
425year, Bob was born. Mickey's first two years of teaching were at Michigan State. He
426said, "It's a factory. This is not where I belong." So a friend said, I know where you
427belong, at Antioch College, that's exactly the right place for you. So that's when we
428ended up in Yellow Springs, Ohio for seven years and then the rest of it you know! The
429year out here for sabbatical, a year back and then from 1967 on, Kauai. End of story.

430Interviewer: Thank you, Althea, thank you so much.

4310:57:22.6

432End

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